

Amendments to the claims

The following listing of claims shall replace all prior listings and versions of claims in the subject application.

Listing of Claims:

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A forklift truck for mounting on the rear of a carrying vehicle, the forklift truck comprising a u-shaped chassis having a crossbar and pair of side bars mounted at the ends of the crossbar and projecting forwardly therefrom in the longitudinal direction of the truck, a wheel located adjacent the front of each of the sidebars, a steerable rear wheel located centrally on the crossbar, a driver's station positioned to one side of the chassis and a motive power unit positioned on the opposite side of the chassis, the chassis mounting a lifting member carrying forks, the lifting member being connected to the forks by way of a side shift mechanism comprising a fixed carriage and a movable carriage slidably mounted on the fixed carriage and means to shift the movable carriage relative the fixed carriage from a central position to positions laterally extending therefrom on either side of the fixed carriage,

the means to shift the movable carriage laterally relative the fixed carriage further comprises a pair of fluid actuated rams each having a cylinder, a piston and an elongate piston rod connected at one end to the piston, the cylinders of the pair of fluid actuated rams being connected together side by side, the free end of one of the piston rods being connected to the fixed carriage and the free end of the other piston rod being connected to the movable carriage.

15. (Previously Presented) A forklift truck as claimed in claim 14 in which the forks are mounted on a framework, the framework being mounted for pivotal movement about a horizontal axis parallel to the horizontal longitudinal axis of the forklift truck, the forks being movable under the operation of a rotating ram.

16. (Previously Presented) A forklift truck as claimed in claim 14 in which each fluid actuated ram is a single acting ram and there is further provided a return biasing means urging each of the single acting rams to a fully contracted configuration.

17. (Previously Presented) A forklift truck as claimed in claim 14 in which each fluid actuated ram is a double acting ram.

18. (Previously Presented) A forklift truck as claimed in claim 14 in which each fluid actuated ram is a hydraulic ram.

19. (Previously Presented) A forklift truck as claimed in claims 14 in which each fluid actuated ram is a pneumatic ram.

20. (Previously Presented) A forklift truck as claimed in claim 14 in which there is provided means to operate the fluid actuated rams in synchronization with each other.

21. (Previously Presented) A forklift truck as claimed in claim 14 in which there is provided means to operate the fluid actuated rams independently of each other.

22. (Previously Presented) A forklift truck as claimed in claim 14 in which there are provided friction reducing members positioned intermediate the movable carriage and the fixed carriage.

23. (Previously Presented) A forklift truck as claimed in claim 22 in which the friction reducing members are any one of a brass pad, a nylon pad or roller bearings.

24. (Previously Presented) A forklift truck as claimed in claim 14 in which there is provided an energy chain connected to a fluid line feed for each of the fluid actuated rams.

25. (Previously Presented) A forklift truck as claimed in claim 14 in which when the movable carriage is in a central position, one of the fluid actuated rams is in a fully

extended configuration while the other of the fluid actuated rams is in a fully retracted configuration.

26. (Previously Presented) A forklift truck as claimed in claim 14 in which when the movable carriage is in a central position, both of the fluid actuated rams are in a half extended configuration with the pistons at half stroke in the cylinders.

27. (Currently Amended) A forklift truck for mounting on the rear of a carrying vehicle, the forklift truck comprising a u-shaped chassis having a crossbar and pair of side bars mounted at the ends of the crossbar and projecting forwardly therefrom in the longitudinal direction of the truck, a wheel located adjacent the front of each of the sidebars, a steerable rear wheel located centrally on the crossbar, a driver's station positioned to one side of the chassis and a motive power unit positioned on the opposite side of the chassis, the chassis mounting a lifting member carrying forks, the lifting member being connected to the forks by way of a side shift mechanism comprising a fixed carriage and a movable carriage slidably mounted on the fixed carriage and means to shift the movable carriage relative the fixed carriage from a central position to positions laterally extending therefrom on either side of the fixed carriage,

the means to shift the movable carriage laterally relative the fixed carriage further comprises a pair of fluid actuated rams each having a cylinder, a piston and an elongate piston rod connected at one end to the piston, the cylinders of the pair of fluid actuated rams being connected together side by side, the free end of one of the piston rods being connected to the fixed carriage and the free end of the other piston rod being connected to the movable carriage, and

in which the forks are mounted on a framework, the framework being mounted for pivotal movement about a horizontal axis parallel to the horizontal longitudinal axis of the forklift truck, the forks being movable under the operation of a rotating ram.

28. (Previously Presented) A forklift truck as claimed in claim 27 in which each fluid actuated ram is a single acting ram and there is further provided a return biasing means urging each of the single acting rams to a fully contracted configuration.

29. (Previously Presented) A forklift truck as claimed in claim 27 in which each fluid actuated ram is a double acting ram.

30. (Previously Presented) A forklift truck as claimed in claim 27 in which there is provided means to operate the fluid actuated rams in synchronization with each other.

31. (Previously Presented) A forklift truck as claimed in claim 27 in which there is provided means to operate the fluid actuated rams independently of each other.

32. (Previously Presented) A forklift truck as claimed in claim 27 in which when the movable carriage is in a central position, one of the fluid actuated rams is in a fully extended configuration while the other of the fluid actuated rams is in a fully retracted configuration.

33. (Previously Presented) A forklift truck as claimed in claim 27 in which when the movable carriage is in a central position, both of the fluid actuated rams are in a half extended configuration with the pistons at half stroke in the cylinders.

34. (Currently Amended) A forklift truck for mounting on the rear of a carrying vehicle, the forklift truck comprising a u-shaped chassis having a crossbar and pair of side bars mounted at the ends of the crossbar and projecting forwardly therefrom in the longitudinal direction of the truck, a wheel located adjacent the front of each of the sidebars, a steerable rear wheel located centrally on the crossbar, a driver's station positioned to one side of the chassis and a motive power unit positioned on the opposite side of the chassis, the chassis mounting a lifting member carrying forks, the lifting member being connected to the forks by way of a side shift mechanism comprising a fixed carriage and a movable carriage slidably mounted on the fixed carriage and means to shift the movable carriage relative the fixed carriage from a central position to positions laterally extending therefrom on either side of the fixed carriage,

the means to shift the movable carriage laterally relative the fixed carriage further comprises a pair of fluid actuated rams each having a cylinder, a piston and an elongate piston rod connected at one end to the piston, the cylinders of the pair of fluid actuated

rams being connected together side by side, the free end of one of the piston rods being connected to the fixed carriage and the free end of the other piston rod being connected to the movable carriage, and

in which there is provided means to operate the fluid actuated rams in synchronization with each other.

35. (Previously Presented) A forklift truck as claimed in claim 34 in which when the movable carriage is in a central position, one of the fluid actuated rams is in a fully extended configuration while the other of the fluid actuated rams is in a fully retracted configuration.

36. (Previously Presented) A forklift truck as claimed in claim 34 in which when the movable carriage is in a central position, both of the fluid actuated rams are in a half extended configuration with the pistons at half stroke in the cylinders.